

## Historical note

## Society of the Atonement



In 1898, the Spirit of God inspired Sister Lurana White and Father Paul Wattson to establish a religious community to be called the **Society of the Atonement**.

The Founders had the vision of a religious congregation dedicated to the unity of Christians and to reconciliation in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. Since the Founders were Episcopalians, the roots of the Society were implanted in that ecclesial communion until 1909, the year in which the Friars and Sisters of the Atonement entered into full communion with the Catholic Church. This was the first time that a corporate reunion with Rome took place since the Reformation.

Among the various activities of the Society of the Atonement, special mention needs to be made of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begun by Fr. Paul in 1908 and celebrated today throughout the world.

From the humble beginnings in an abandoned church, St. John's-in-the-Wilderness, in an area called Graymoor (New York), the Society of the Atonement has dedicated its efforts for the unity of the Christians and reconciliation in several countries: the United States, Canada, Japan, England, Ireland, Brazil, Peru and Italy.

Yearly conferences honoring the memory of Fr. Paul Wattson were begun in 1974 at The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, then, in 1980, at the University of San Francisco. To these were added in 1995, the Paul Wattson Lectures at the Atlantic School of Theology, Halifax, in 1996 at the Toronto School of Theology and in 2017 at the Chicago Theological Union. The *Paul Wattson Lectures* are given by international experts in the field of ecumenism and interreligious dialogue.

In 2013 the cause for the canonization of Fr. Paul of Graymoor was introduced in the Archdiocese of New York.

Since 1998, the Centro Pro Unione organizes lectures each year in December to honor Fr. Paul Wattson and Mother Lurana White, co-founders of the Society of the Atonement.

Earlier lecturers were Enzo Bianchi, Sarah Anne Coakley, Archbishop Bruno Forte, Anna Marie Aagaard, Robert Taft, SJ, Dame Mary Tanner, Angelo Maffei, Msgr. Eleuterio Francesco Fortino, Gillian Kingston, Timothy Radcliff, OP, Dr. Jane Williams, Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, M. Afr., Turid Karlsen Seim, Kurt Cardinal Koch, Hervé Legrand, OP, William Henn, OFM Cap, Walter Cardinal Kasper, Petros Vassiliadis, Rabbi Jack Bemporad, Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, Michael Calabria, ofm, Muhammad Shafiq, Adam Afterman, Giovanni Maria Vian, Teresa Berger, Thomas F. Best, and Donna Orsuto.

**Websites** [www.atonementfriars.org](http://www.atonementfriars.org) · [www.fratiationement.org](http://www.fratiationement.org)

Annual  
Conference  
2024



CENTRO PRO UNIONE



The Centro Pro Unione invites you to  
the Twenty-seventh Annual Conference

in Honor of



Servant of God

Mother

Father

LURANA WHITE and PAUL WATTSON

"Ecumenical Fruits and Lessons  
from the Synod on Synodality"

Sr. Nathalie Becquart, xmcj

Undersecretary of the General Secretariat  
of the Synod at the Vatican

Thursday · 12 December 2024  
6:00 pm (Rome Time)

via Santa Maria dell'Anima, 30  
1<sup>st</sup> floor · Rome

Lecturer

Sr. Nathalie Becquart



**Nathalie Becquart**, XMCJ, is the Undersecretary of the General Secretariat of the Synod at the Vatican.

As a Xavière sister from France, her mission has largely focused on youth and synodality.

Prior to her current appointment, she served as National Director of

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the Service for the Evangelization of Young People and Vocations in France and did research in ecclesiology at the School of Theology and Ministry at Boston College.

She has also studied management and entrepreneurship at HEC, philosophy and theology at Centre Sèvres (Facultés Loyola), as well as sociology at the EHESS in Paris.

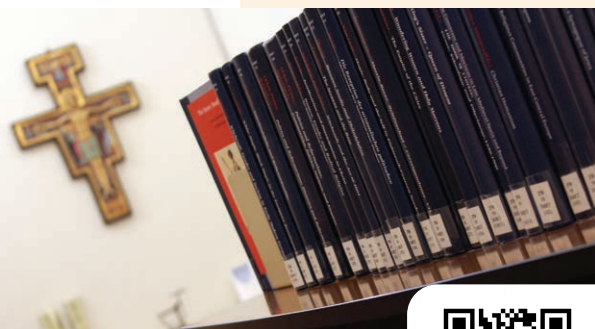
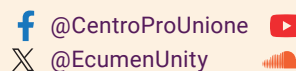
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